

**Clinical Report of the School of Midwifery and
Gynæcology, University of Hong Kong.
for the year ended April 30th, 1926.**

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This report is apparently the result of the first years work of the University Clinic. The "Foreword" appears to be written with the dual object, first of explaining the position of affairs to the reader, and secondly, of getting an unofficial dig at the Government to provide more beds and nurses. Professor Tottenham does not seem very content to make a small beginning.

His description of the "Labour Ward" is vivid, but he does not give the actual size. He says "space is so limited . . . it only accommodates one patient, the nursing staff and medical attendant with comfort in cool weather; while it may so happen that two or even three patients have to be attended in their confinements at the same time in this ward." It sounds as though it must be awful in the hot weather!

He also wants more lying-in beds, and some isolation wards. Was there ever an Obstetric Clinic that didn't?

His next grouse is that the patients will not seek admission with mathematical regularity, and that he cannot persuade them to stay for more than three or four days after delivery,—a difficulty which he naively admits does not appear to exist at the neighbouring Tsan Yeuk Chinese Maternity Hospital.

In the Maternity Department there are 10 beds, and from the work done in the Gynæcological Department it would appear that there are two or three available. There is the Professor, an Assistant and a House Obstetrician, so he cannot complain that the Medical Staff is overworked, although the Nursing Staff is in a very different position. There is one trained sister on day duty and another on night duty. The day sister has the help of one, and sometimes two probationers, but at night the night sister is the "only member of the Nursing Staff in the building" (with three confinements all at once, ten lying-in mothers and their babies, in the hot weather—phew!).

In addition, some (number not stated) "amahs" or "Chinese handywomen" are employed, and three students at a time are attached to the Clinic.

The Clinical Report proper is divided into three sections. The Maternity, the Gynæcological, and the Pathological.

In the Maternity Department there were 463 deliveries and one woman suffering from malignant malaria who died undelivered. Five mothers died, making six deaths in all, a mortality of 1.3 per cent or, excluding the one who died undelivered 1.08 per cent.

Thirty-six cases (7.7 per cent.) were morbid, and of these, 19 had had some obstetric operation.

For the number of patients attended, there has been a fair proportion of abnormal work. Two cases of placenta prævia with one death. Seven cases of eclampsia with two deaths, and one Cæsarean section for traumatic stricture of the vagina.

Some unusual and interesting statistics are given. The average measurements of the pelvis and of the foetal skull in Chinese patients are given, but the pelvic measurements are in inches, and the foetal skull measurements in centimetres, so either way the reader must do some arithmetic before comparison with European measurements can be made. Why cannot writers keep to one unit of measurement, or give both? The figures show that the pelvic and cranial measurements of the Chinese women and children are a trifle less than the averages given in English text books.

The duration of labour is elaborately set out in tables showing the percentage of cases in which labour lasted less than six hours, six to 12 hours, 12 to 24 hours and over 24 hours, with somewhat similar tables for the duration of the second and third stages. The average duration of labour appears to be slightly less than over here.

The Gynæcological report is a short summary of 55 operations in the Government Hospital and 23 in Tsan Yeuk Hospital. Three subtotal hysterectomies, and one myomectomy for fibroids, one abdominal (recovered) and one vaginal (died) hysterectomy for carcinoma of the cervix, three operations for ectopic gestation (one death), seven for ovarian cysts, and nine for salpingitis together with fifteen miscellaneous operations constitute the roll of major operations which are considered worthy of case-details.

Professor Wang, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.T.M.H., F.R.C.P, Edin, writes the pathological report, the outstanding feature of which is the suspicious mind of Professor Tottenham. Out of a total of 226 specimens sent for examination 171 were blood for Wasserman reaction only, 31 of which were positive. 16 tumours were examined, and we note as an interesting case a "myosarcoma of the cervix." The rest of the specimens consist of blood for culture, urine swabs and smears, and 20 "inflammatory lesions" among which there is one "inflammation of the urethra," and one "inflammation of the heart."